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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ABF-01 PC-05 XMB-04 /146 W
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R 271529Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP, TCDC, EAID
SUBJ: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE ON TCDC -
JANUARY 10-17, 1977, FINAL REPORT

REF: USUN 0123

1. SUMMARY: THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE COMPLETED ITS SCHEDULED WORK BY APPROVING A MODIFIED CONFERENCE AGENDA, ENDORSING IN GENERAL A PROPOSED CONFERENCE BUDGET AND ACCEPTING AN OMINBUS RESOLUTION. DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED OF THE SPECIAL UNIT AND THE TIMING OF THE ECWA MEETING ON TCDC PROMPTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECOND PREPCOM FROM JUNE UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

2. THIS FIRST PREPCOM MEETING WAS MARKED BY THE HEAVY PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL-DESIGNATE MORSE, INTENSIVE PRESSURE FROM THE ADVANCED LDCS AND STUBBORN RESISTANCE FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO SECRETARIAT BLANDISHMENTS AND TO ADVANCED LDC TACTICS. RESULTS THUS FAR ARE SATISFACTORY TO THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES. END SUMMARY.

3. AGENDA. THE DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA WAS AMENDED
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AFTER EXHAUSTIVE DEBATE TO REFLECT EMPHASES OF VARIOUS DELEGATIONS AND GROUPINGS WHICH SOUGHT THE WIDEST SCOPE IN TCDC FORMULATIONS, EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF UNDP IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUING INPUTS VIA THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE U.S. DELEGATION INTRODUCED AND WON APPROVAL FOR AN ITEM (6J) ON A

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LONG-TERM PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM. ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERTAKING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, IT WAS HOPED THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD DEFER OR STRETCH OUT ELEMENTS OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE INFORMATION PROGRAM WHICH IS NOW ESTIMATED TO COST $403,400.

4. WESTERN DELEGATIONS SUCCEEDED IN STAVING OFF A CONCERTED SOVIET BLOC/ETHIOPIAN EFFORT TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC MENTION OF STATE SERVICES AS PART OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO PROMOTE TCDC. THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATE PROVED MORE TENACIOUS THAN THOSE FROM THE USSR BY RAISING THE ISSUE AGAIN AT MIDNIGHT FRIDAY.

5. BUDGET. LONG AND DETAILED DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CONFERENCE INDUCED SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR BRADFORD MORSE WHO IS EXPECTED TO SERVE AS CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL. AS OPPOSED TO FULL ENDORSEMENT BY LDCS, WESTERN DELEGATIONS SOUGHT ASSURANCES THAT EXPENDITURES WOULD BE RATIONAL AND PRUDENT. CONSENSUS WAS LACKING UNTIL THE FINAL HOURS WHEN DUTCH OBJECTIONS TO A HELPFUL CANADIAN PROPOSAL WERE OVERCOME. THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE BUDGET RECOMMENDA-TIONS WAS MODIFIED BY A POINTED REFERENCE TO "COMMENTS IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS" AND BY CALLING UPON THE SECRETARY GENERAL "TO UTILIZE THE FUNDS IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER" IN LIGHT OF SAID COMMENTS.

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6. DECISION. THE OMNIBUS DECISION AS IT PERTAINED TO GUIDANCE FOR THE DRAWING UP OF A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR CONFERENCE CONSIDERATION DOES NOT INCLUDE REFERENCES TO THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE ON ECDC OR TO THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES AS PERSISTENTLY URGED BY YUGOSLAVIA OWING TO VIGOROUS OPPOSITION FROM WESTERN DELEGATIONS, LED BY THE FRG AND FRANCE.

7. DOCUMENTATION AND TIMING. THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE FOR REVIEW AT ITS SECOND SESSION SEVERAL COMPREHENSIVE PAPERS INCLUDING A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION, AN ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF THE FOUR REGIONAL MEETINGS ON TCDC AND REPORTS OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE AND THE PANEL OF EXPERTS ON TCDC (THE LATTER YET TO BE CONVINCED) AS WELL AS STUDIES ON THE MAJOR PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS. TO PERMIT MORE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS AND CONSIDERING THE TIMING OF THE ECWA MEETING (MAY, 1977), THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO POSTPONE ITS SECOND SESSION FROM THE WEEK

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PRECEDING THE 24TH SESSION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL (JUNE 6) UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE 32ND UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ALLOTTING ONE WEEK AND ONE DAY FOR THE SESSION, IT WILL EMBRACE SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 1977 AND TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK.

8. ATMOSPHERE. DISCUSSION IN THE WORKING GROUP OF THE AGENDA, THE BUDGET AND GUIDANCE FOR A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION WAS DETAILED AND INTENSE BUT NOT CONTENTIOUS WITH THE ADVANCED LDCS (ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA) SEEKING THE BROADEST COMMITMENT TO TCDC AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (CANADA, FRG, FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, UK AND US) INSISTING UPON THE GREATEST DEGREE OF RATIONALITY IN APPROACH AND PLANNING FOR THE CONFERENCE.

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9. THE INTENSIVE PRESSURE FROM THE ADVANCED LDCS (NOTABLY ARGENTINA AND YUGOSLAVIA) WHICH RESULTED IN MEETINGS LASTING UNTIL MIDNIGHT AND 8:25 P.M. RESPECTIVELY ON THE FINAL TWO DAYS WAS MATCHED BY THE PERVASIVE SKEPTICISM DISPLAYED BY THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS. THIS LATTER ATTITUDE PROMPTED MOR. MORSE TO INTERVENE FREQUENTLY AT SESSIONS OF THE PLENARY AND THE WORKING GROUP IN DEFENSE OF HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS AND TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THE SECRETARIAT WAS MINDFUL OF CRITICISMS BEING EXPRESSED AND WOULD PROCEED RESPONSIBLY.

10. WHILE ESTIMATED AT BEING FAR LESS COSTLY THAN OTHER WORLD CONFERENCES (E.G. THOSE FOR POPULATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DESERTIFICATION), THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES CAME UNDER UNUSUAL SCRUTINY,

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REFLECTING AND ATTITUDE OF CONSIDERABLE RESERVE ABOUT THE ENTIRE UNDERTAKING. FRANCE WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF ALL PHASES OF THE PROPOSAL AND OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THE END, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO A REQUEST BEING SENT TO THE ACABQ FOR AN ADDITIONAL $603,000 TO COVER ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES IN 1977 AND APPROVED A DRAFT AGENDA SEEMINGLY TOO EXTENSIVE TO BE COVERED ADEQUATELY IN A TWO-WEEK CONFERENCE.

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11. THE U.S. DELEGATION PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN SEEKING APPROPRIATE COMPROMISES, IN BLOCKING INVIDIOUS PROPOSALS AND REFERENCES AND IN ENCOURAGING THE SECRETARIAT TO EXERCISE THE GREATEST PRUDENCE IN ITS PREPARATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

12. COMMENT. THE SECOND PREPCOM WILL DOUBTLESS PROVE TO BE THE TOUCHSTONE FOR CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND PERHAPS FOR THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.
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